

ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN®

ISSUE

82

WARRIORS: PART 4

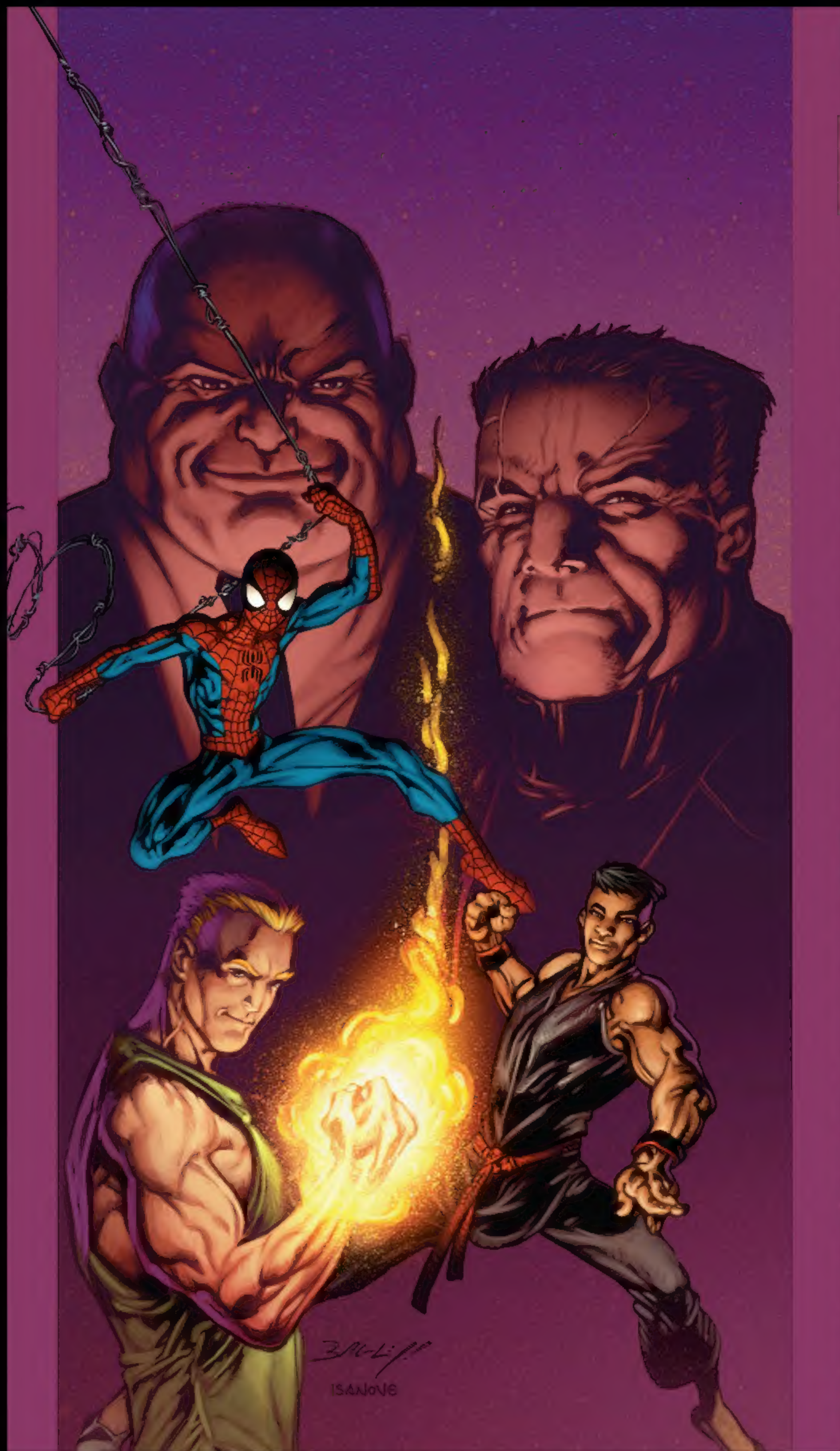


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ISANOVE
**BENDIS
BAGLEY
HANNA**

MARVEL®

PREVIOUSLY

ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN



The bite of a genetically altered spider granted high school student Peter Parker incredible, arachnid-like powers! When a burglar killed his beloved Uncle Ben, a grief-stricken Peter vowed to use his amazing abilities to protect his fellow man. He learned the invaluable lesson that with great power must also come great responsibility...

Having recently broken up with his girlfriend Mary Jane Watson, Peter Parker thought life couldn't get any worse. Little did he know that while his personal life crumbled around him, his life as Spider-Man would become more complicated and dangerous than ever before.

A new mob boss, a mutant known as Hammerhead, has made a move against Wilson "The Kingpin of Crime" Fisk's own mob holdings by blowing up a warehouse owned by Fisk and pitting Spider-Man against a costumed vigilante known as Moon Knight. Afterward, Fisk — whom Spider-Man has long tried to put behind bars — provided Peter concrete evidence linking Hammerhead to a recent murder.

Meanwhile, Hammerhead attempted to extort money from a Kingpin-owned restaurant in Chinatown, only to be intercepted by Shang-Chi, the Master of Kung Fu, and Danny Rand, the Iron Fist. Alerted to the battle by police captain Jeanne De Wolfe, Spider-Man joined the fray only to receive a resounding beating by Hammerhead.

Just as things were starting to look bad for Peter, hope arrived in the form of the Black Cat, a former jewel thief who has a...personal interest...in Spider-Man...

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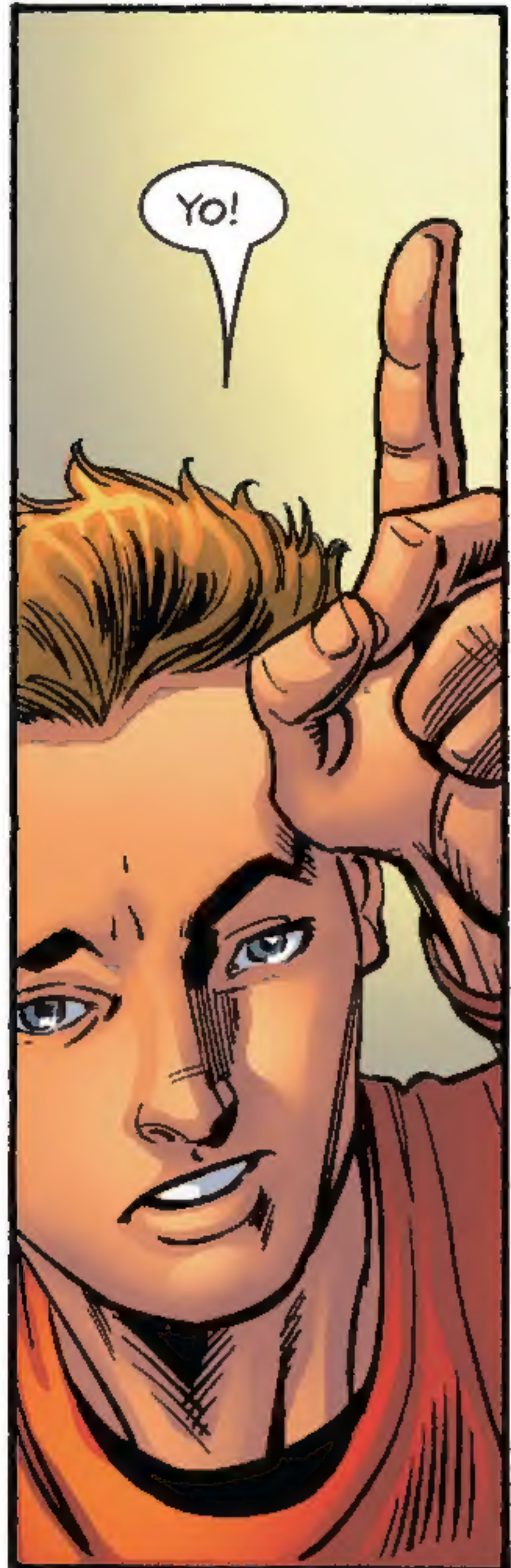
Cover: Mark Bagley & Richard Isanove



Midtown High



Flash Thompson?



Yo!



Kenny McFarlane.

Mary Jane Watson.

That would be me.

Yeah yeah...

Peter Parker?



Peter Parker?



Peter Parker?



Peter Parker?



Has anyone seen Peter Parker?



Chinatown

Skank!
Back off!

I'm
conducting
business!



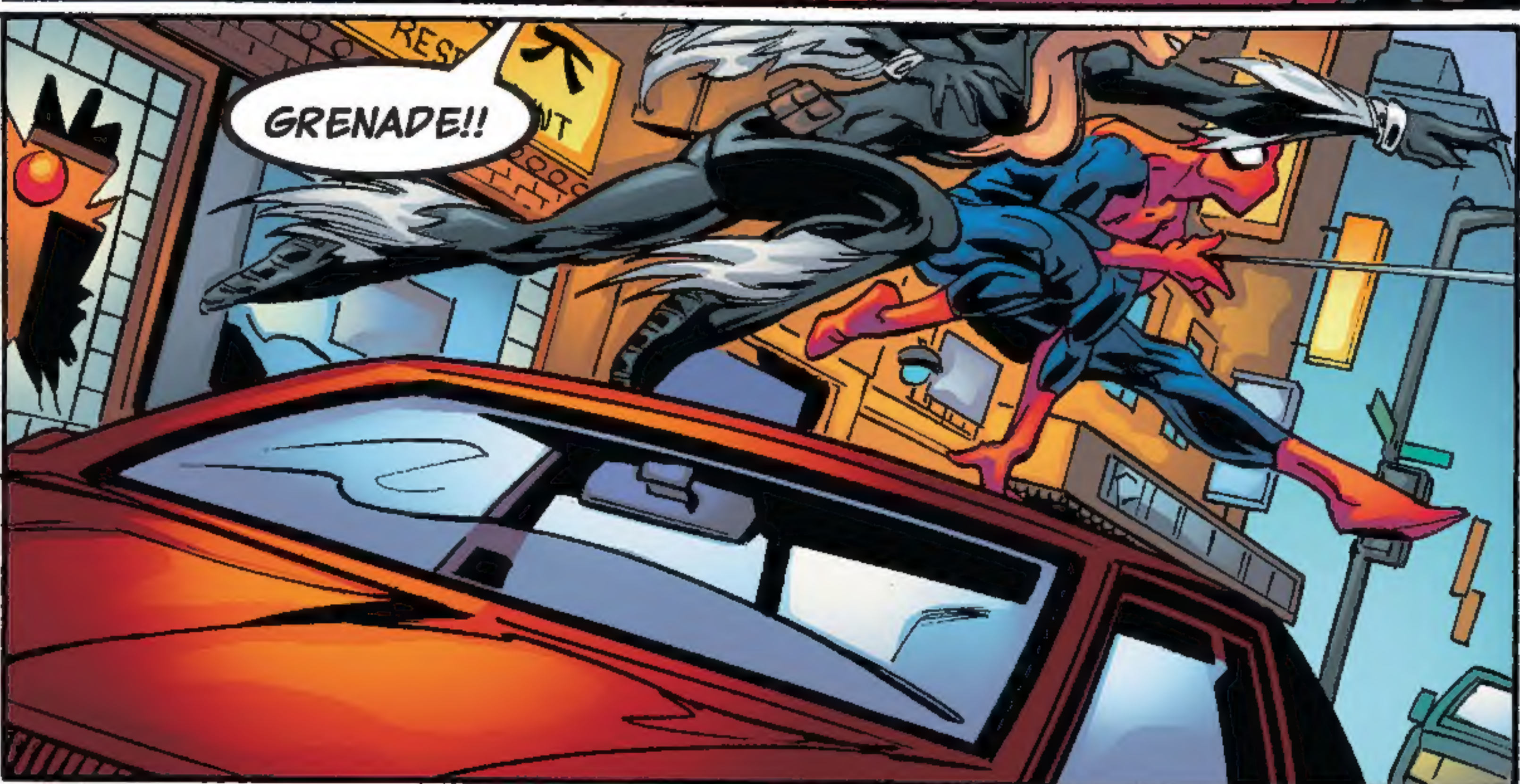
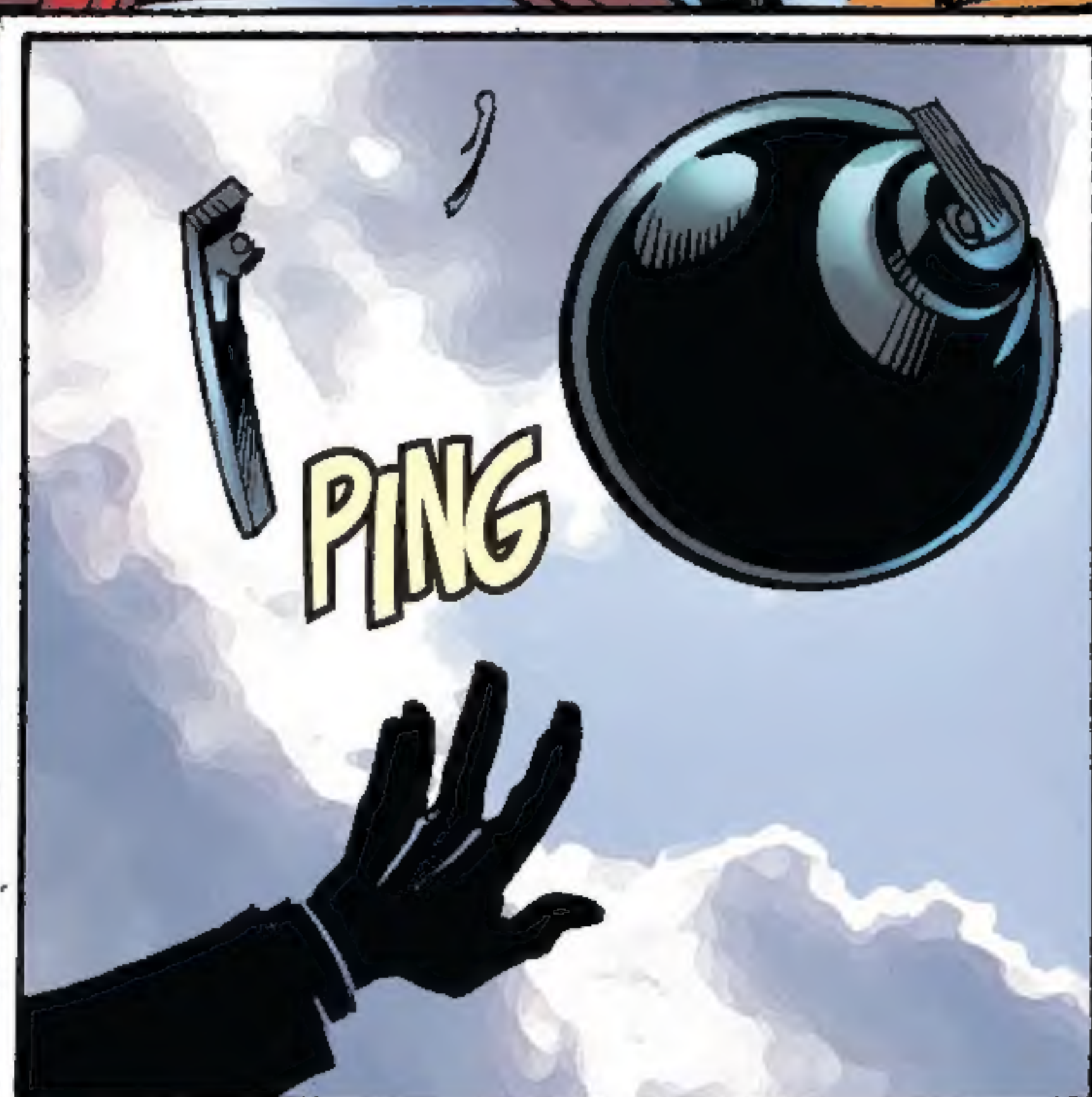
Gasp.

Do you
think I look
skanky in this
outfit?



It's not a
negative.

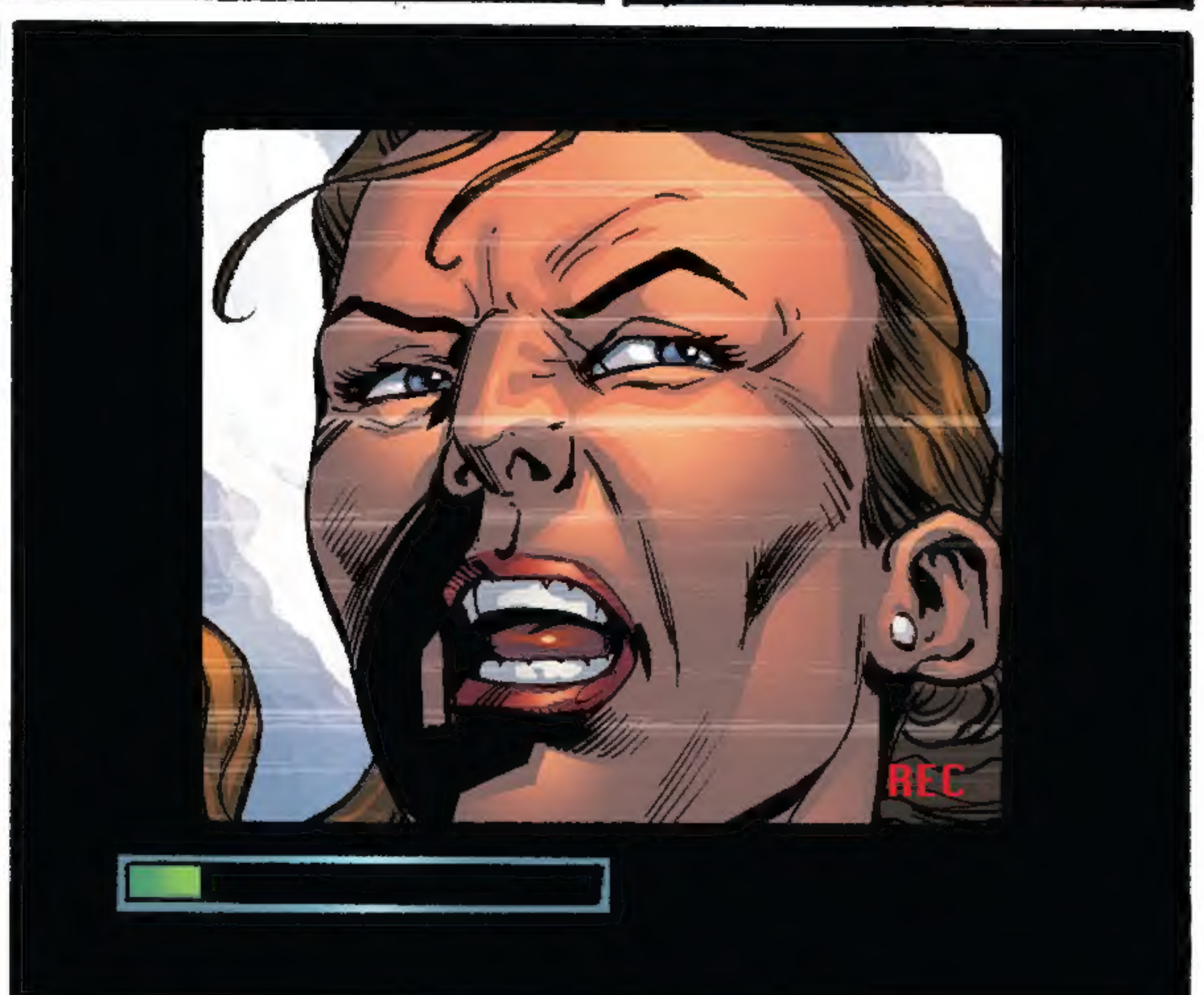
THWAP
BAM

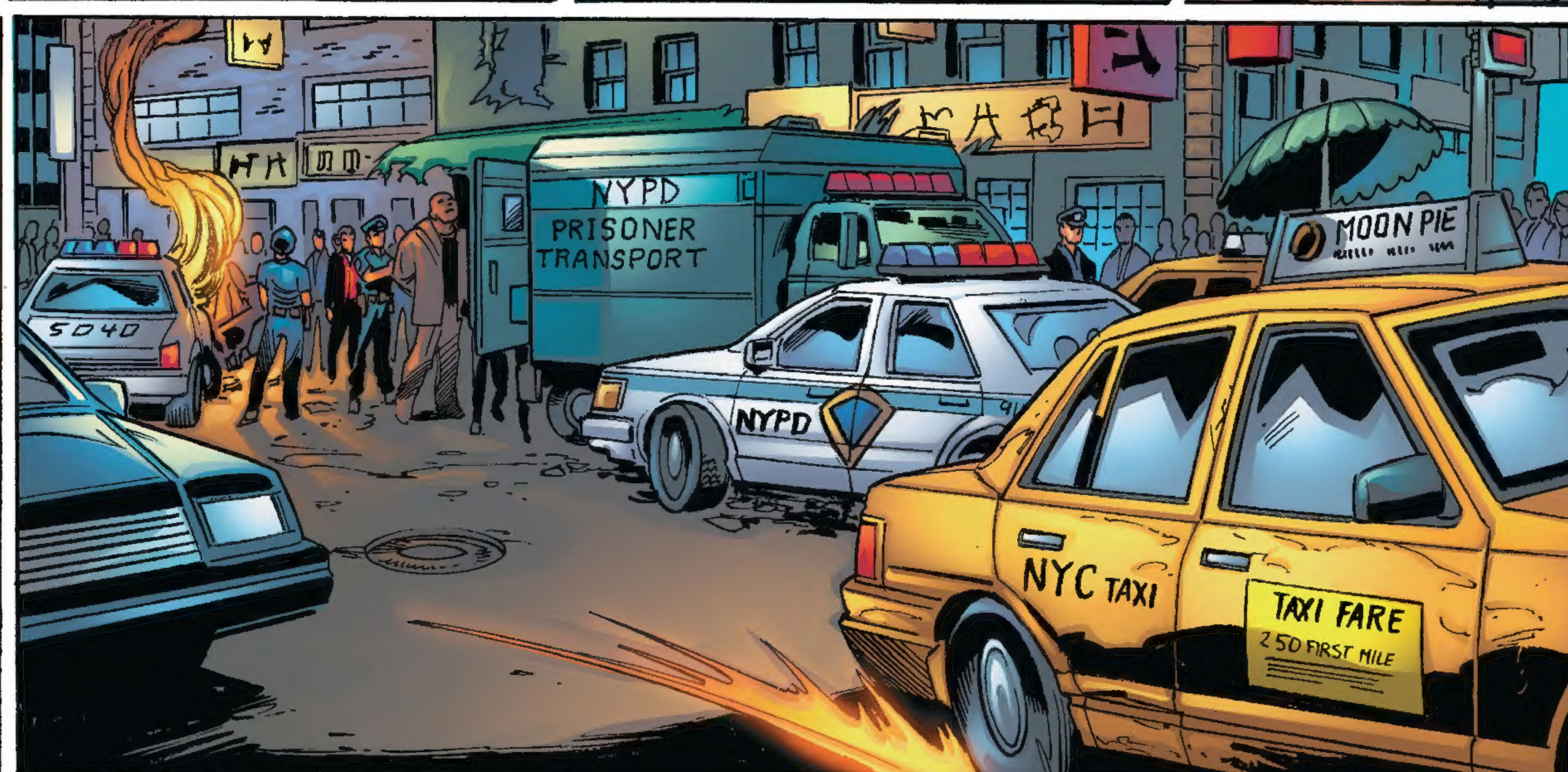
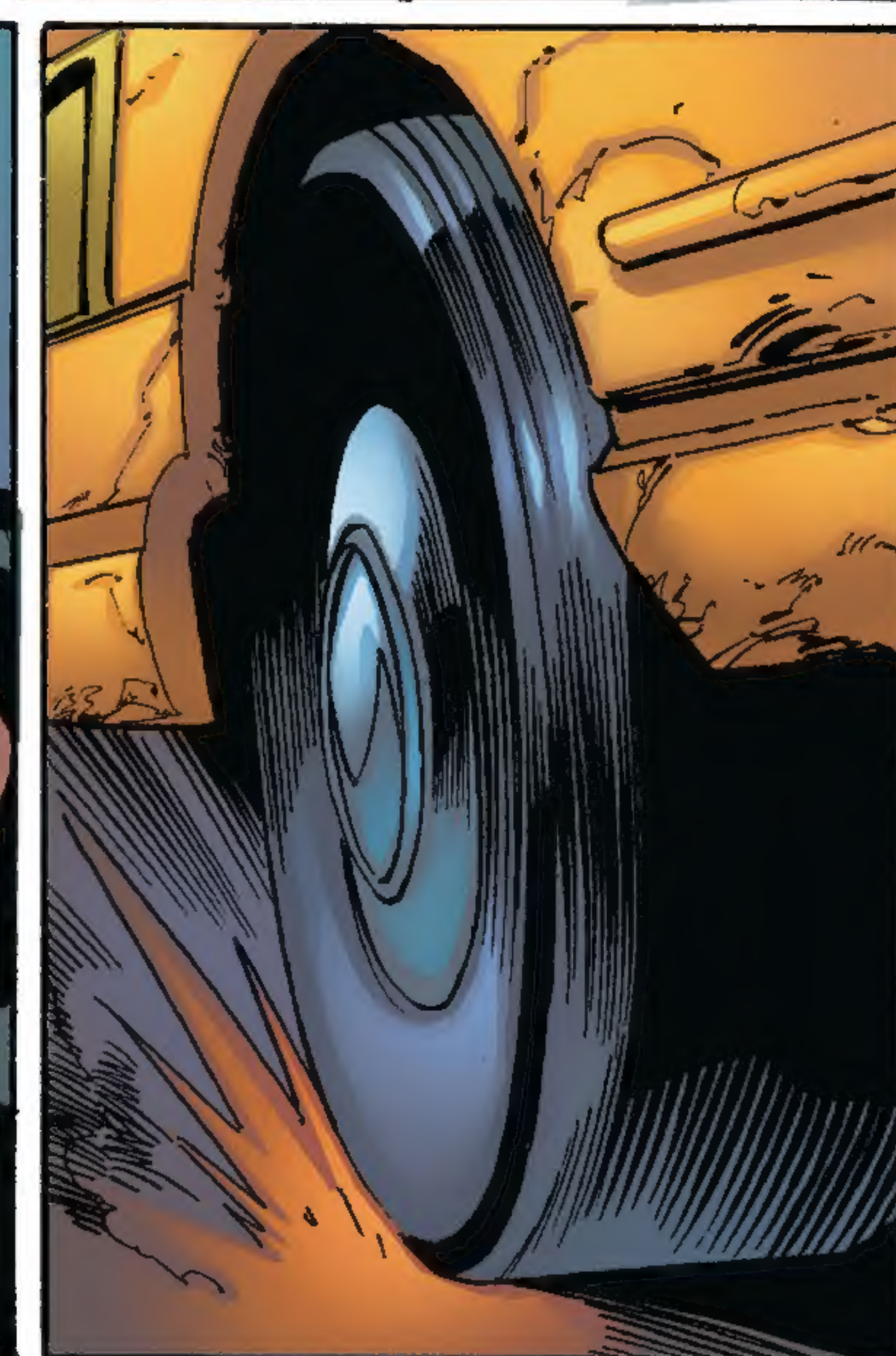
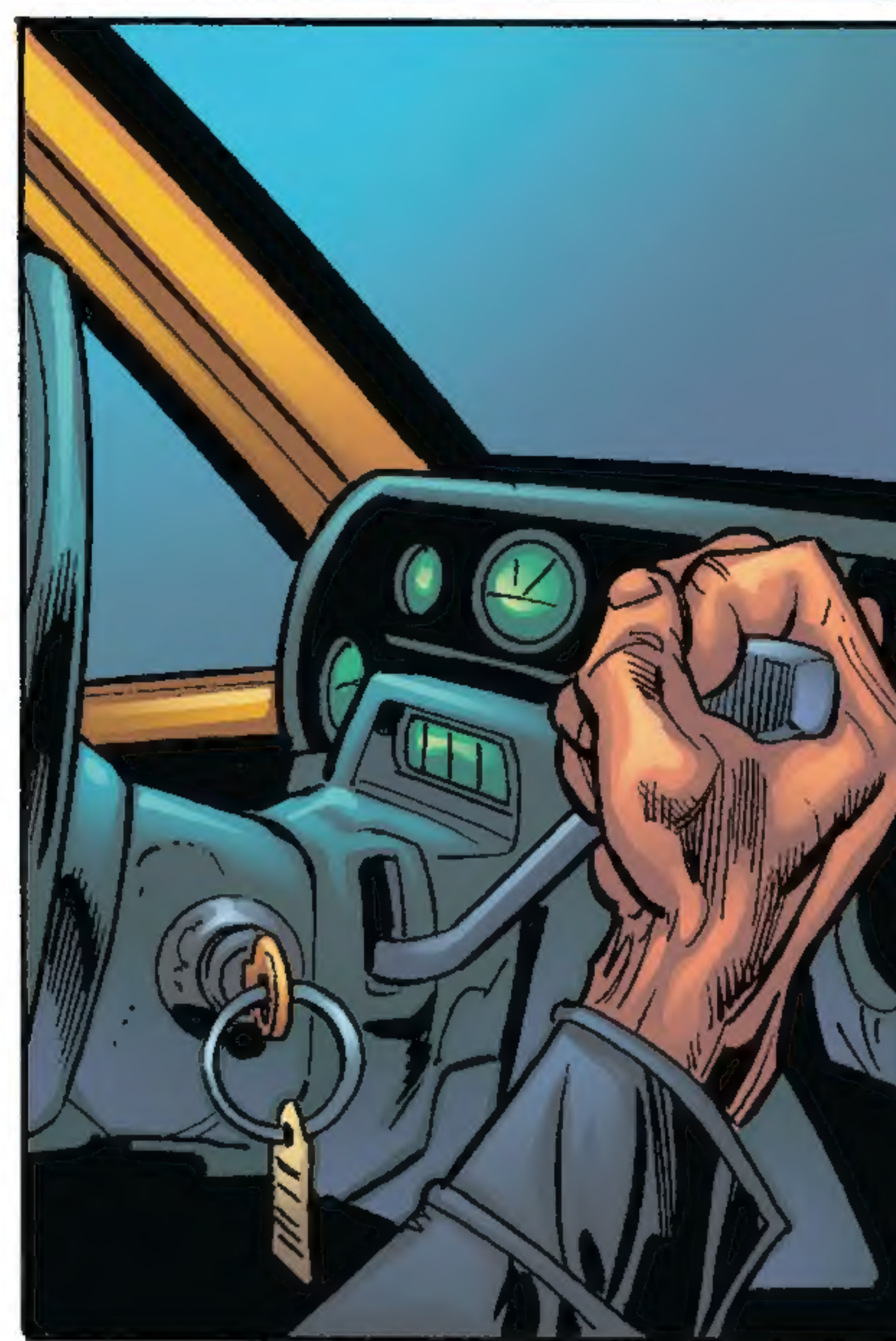
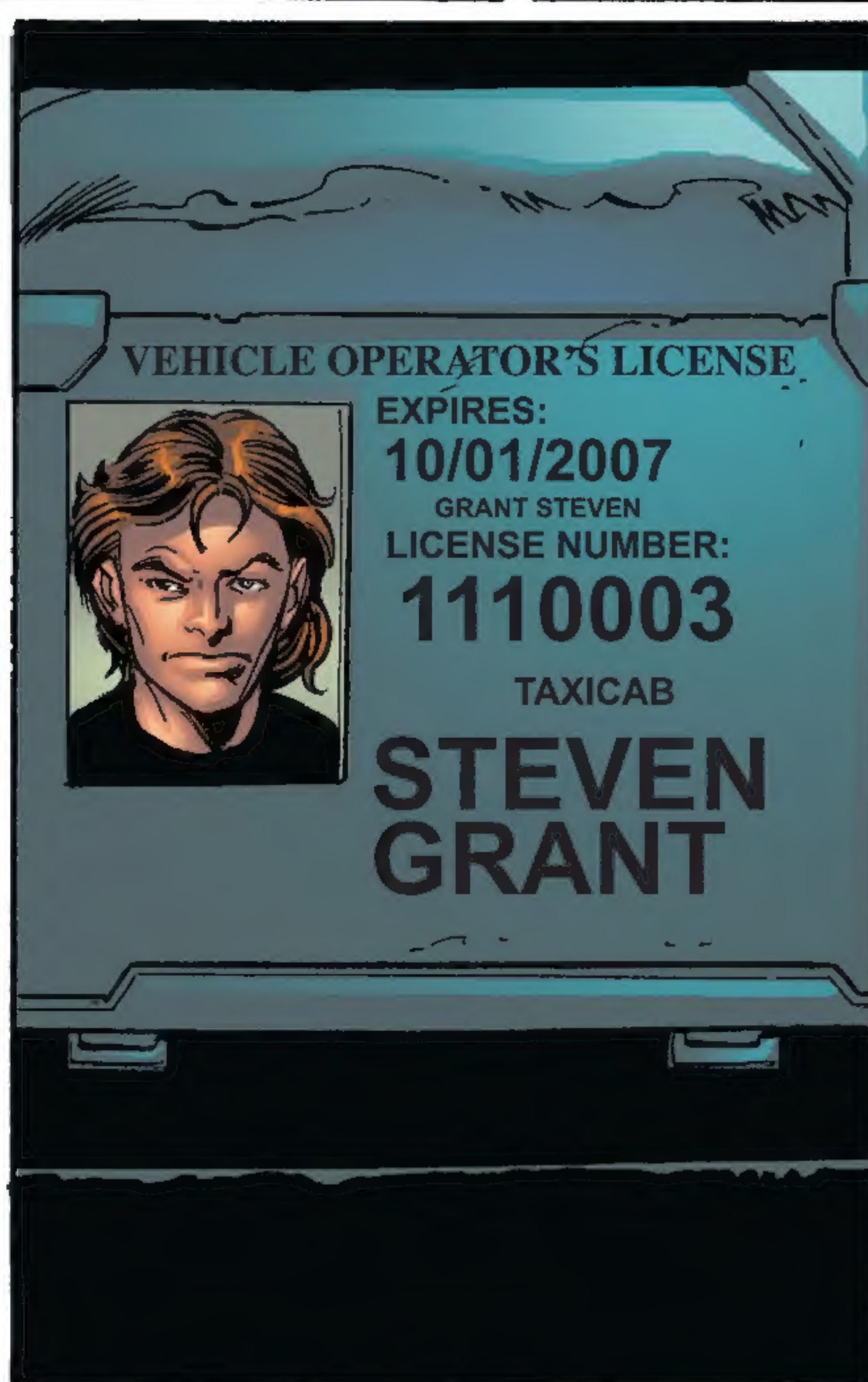
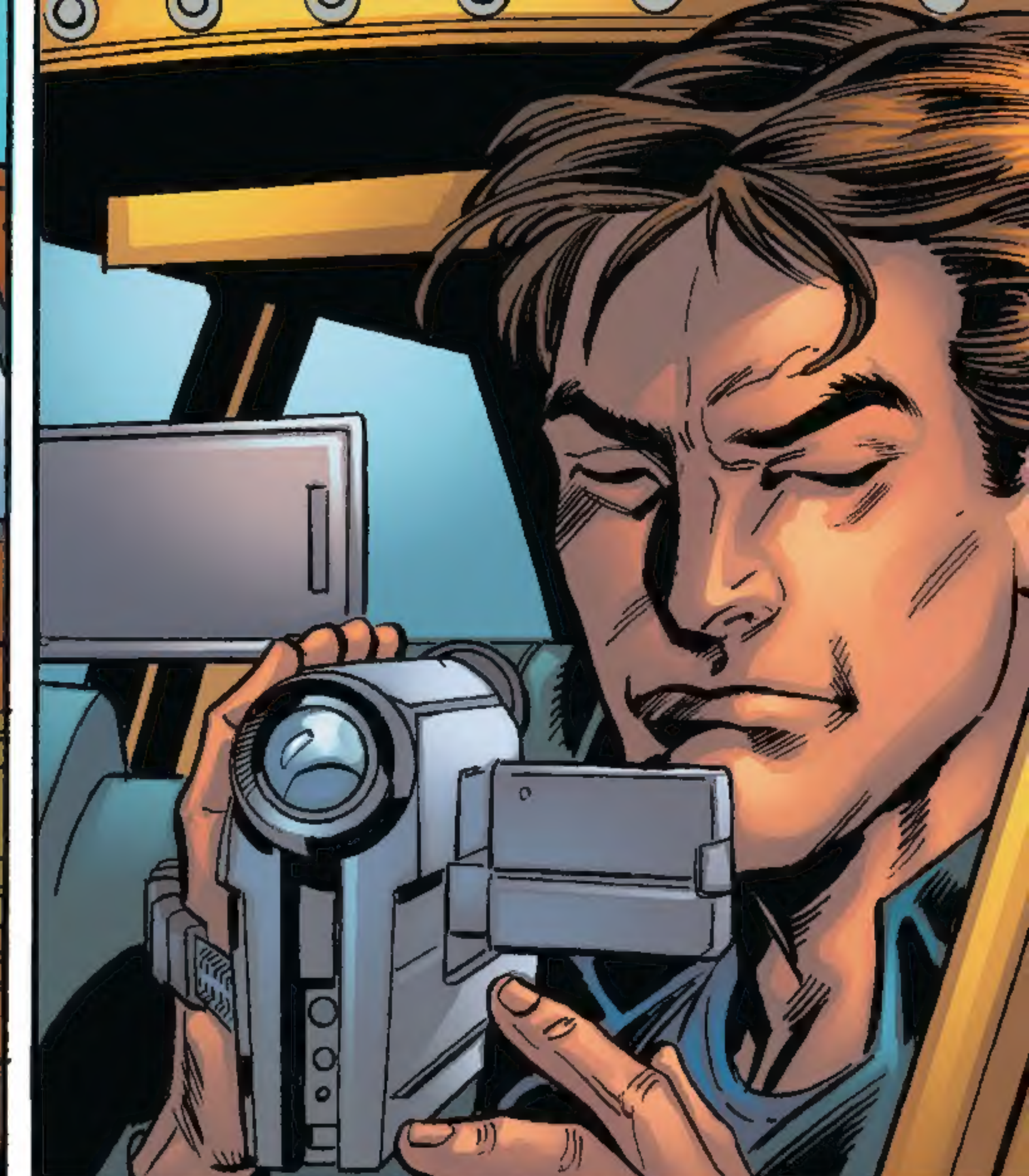
















Whoah whoah whoah...

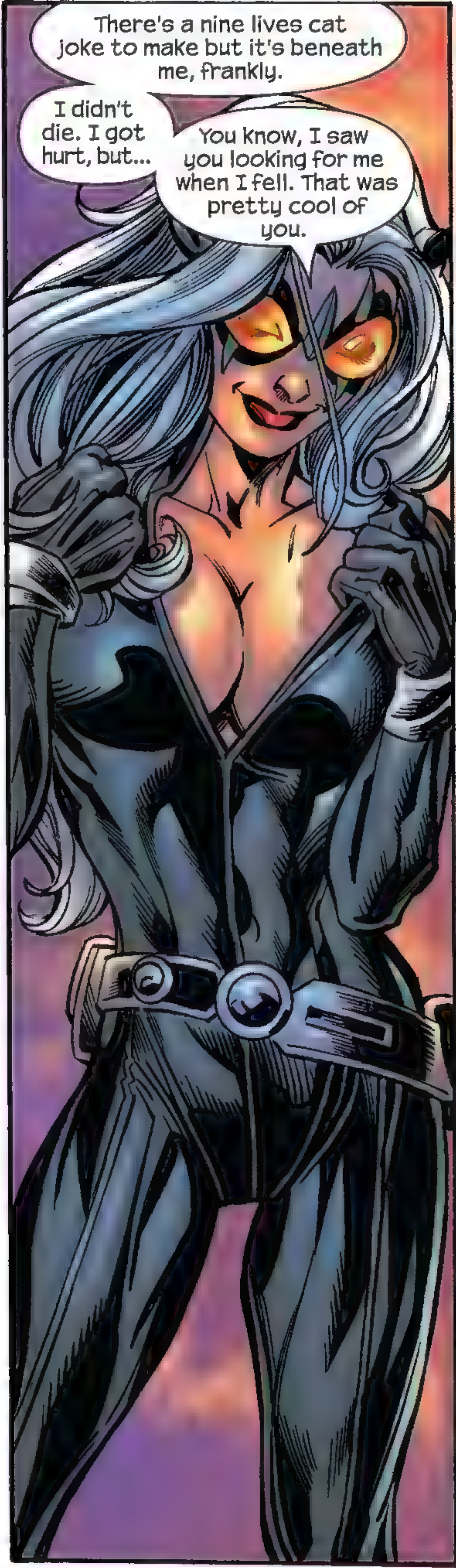
What?

How are you still alive?

When was I dead?

You got stabbed in the stomach and fell off a building.

Oh, that.



There's a nine lives cat joke to make but it's beneath me, frankly.

I didn't die. I got hurt, but...

You know, I saw you looking for me when I fell. That was pretty cool of you.



If I had a way to get ahold of you, sweetie, I would have.

But such is the nature of our relationship.

I'm sorry my Kingpin revenge quest has to take a front seat to the unbelievably scrumptious promise of you and I...

What relationship is that?



But, hey...

When the fates allow, like today, and we can steal ten minutes, I say we--

Stop- stop trying to stop me from asking you questions by kissing me... I'm not- yeah, I'm not that stupid.

Why are you mad?



Because I never have any idea what's going on?!!!



You're spazzing out

Wouldn't you rather be making out?



I'm so confused.

Okay, what do you want to know?

You're back.

I am.

Still after the Kingpin?

Absolutely.



Because he did in your father?

Does he know you're back?

Absolutely.

Who?

The Kingpin?

No. I've been biding my time—doing tons of research.



I'm the one who called in that leak on his guy Dini. Started the wheels turning on his federal legal woes.

Yay me!

Then I started doing recon on Hammerhead. Following him. Waiting to make my move.

Move?

Maybe help this Hammerhead topple the fat pig...

...but when he had my baby all rough like that I had to do something.



Baby?

Oh.

You.

See, I *do* care about you.

Hammerhead's the *bad* guy. Why would you side with him?

They're *all* bad guys. Are you serious?

I mean other than you, point to the *non*-bad guy.



There will *always* be bad guys.

I don't *care* about getting the *bad* guys...

...I only care about Wilson Fisk.

Wilson Fisk is the goal.

When Wilson Fisk is down for good then it's done.

It?

This. It's done.



This outfit comes off and me and you can go ice skating or whatever people do who don't wear leather-ish outfits and run around rooftops.



Uh...
Are we dating and no one told me?



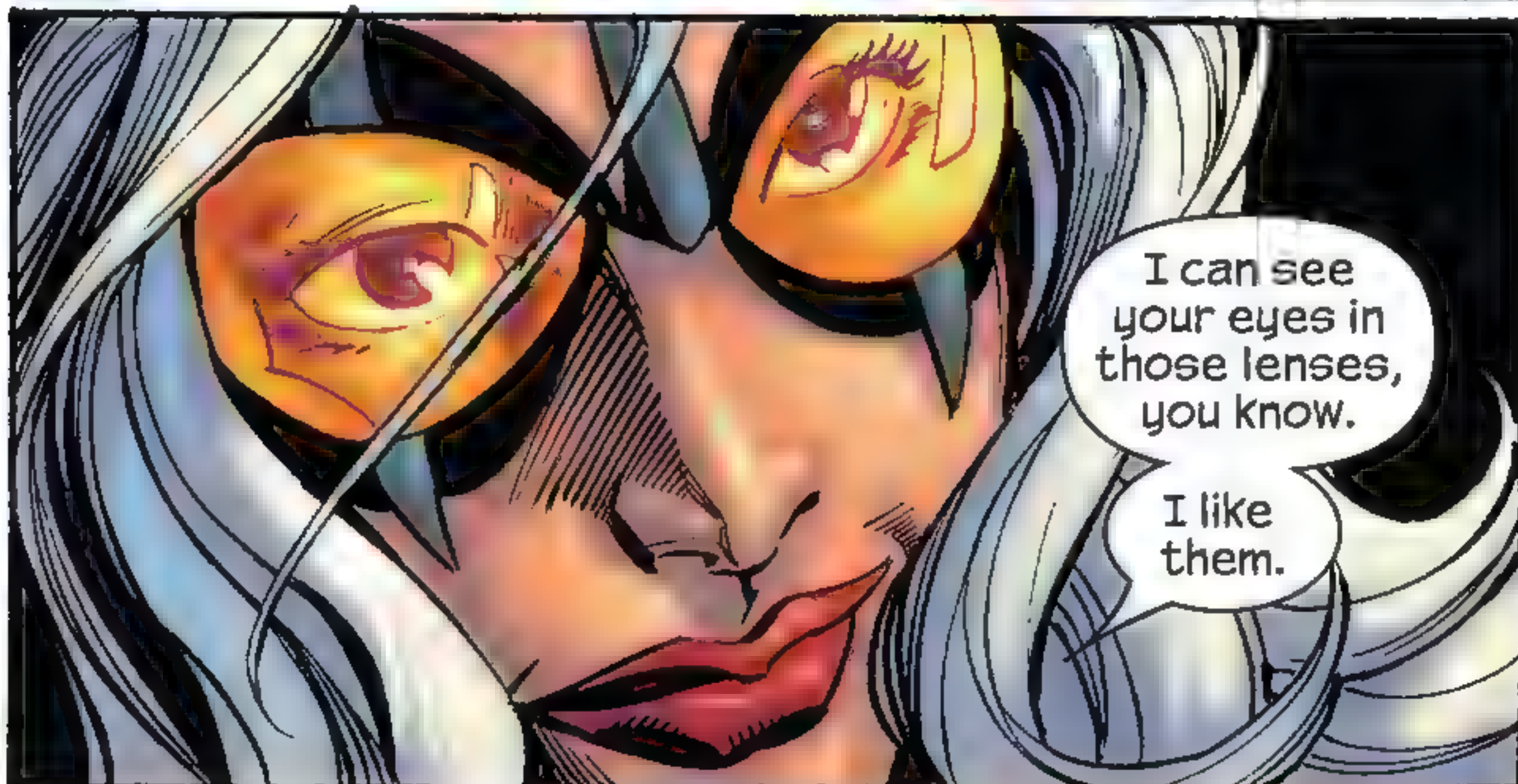
You haven't thought about me?

Well, I'm-I'm glad you're okay.

I'm more than okay. I thought about you, you know.

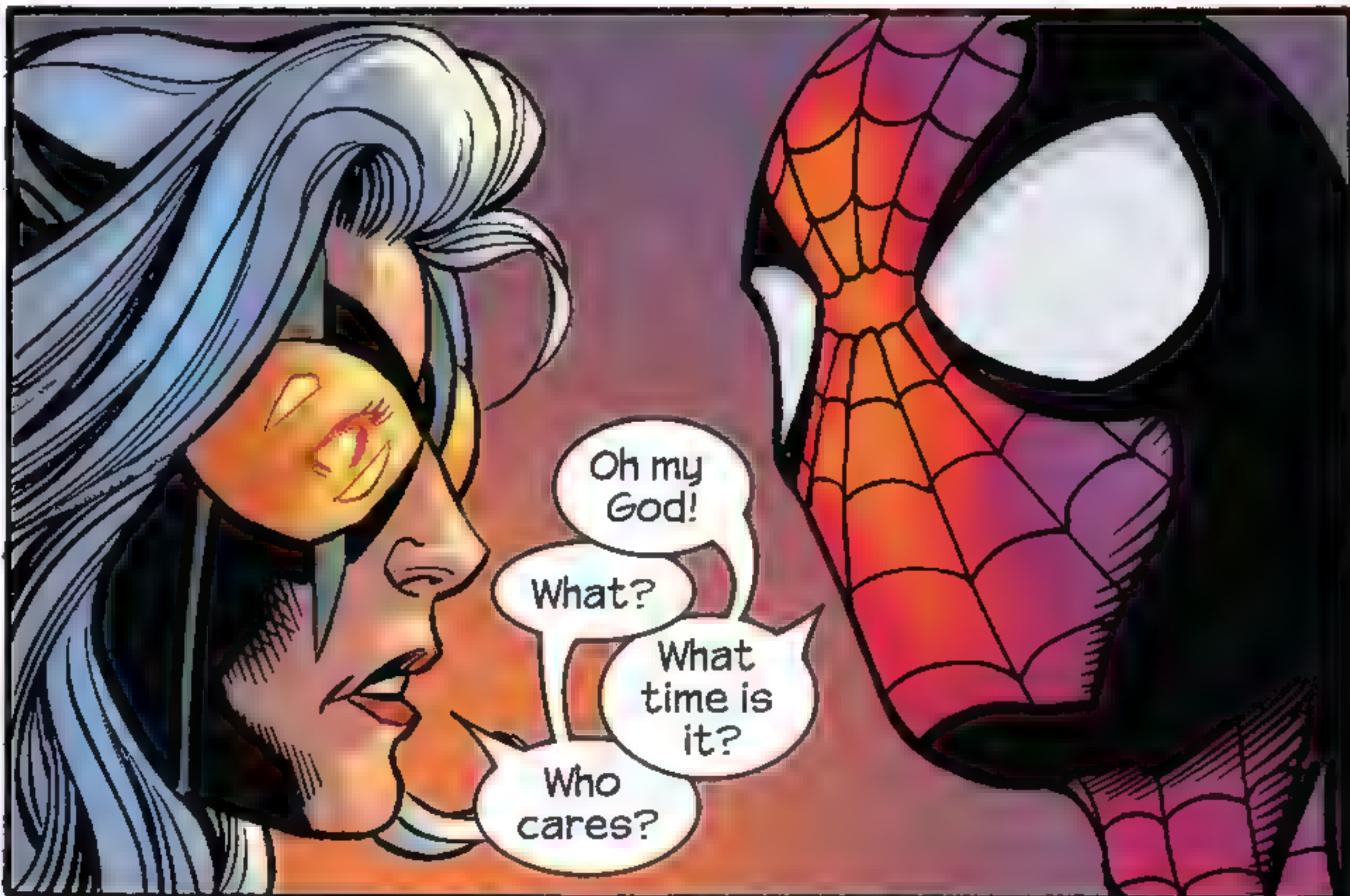
You did?

I did. Really.



I can see your eyes in those lenses, you know.

I like them.



Oh my God!

What?

What time is it?

Who cares?

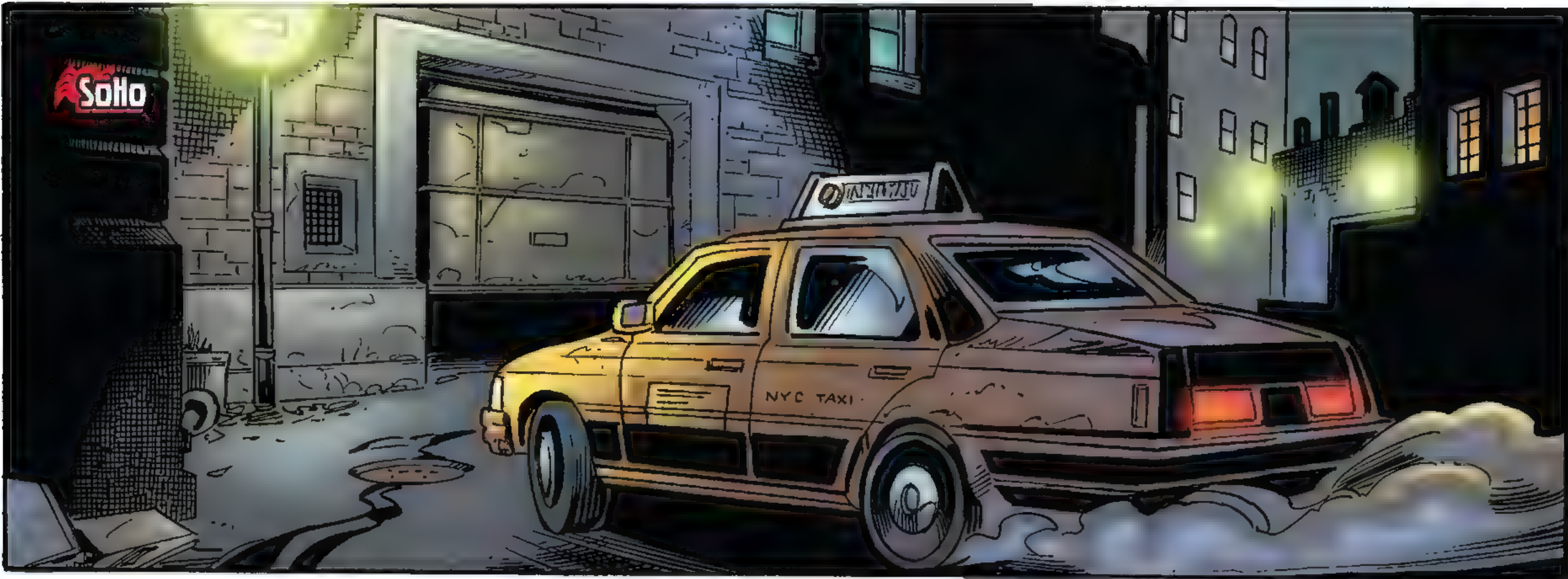


I gotta-oh man, I gotta go!



He's married.

Damn.





Come on, Marc.

You're supposed to call before you come up.

Is there food?



How did it go against Hammerhead?

It didn't.

I saw it on the news. Chinatown.



It was on the news?

Just now. No mention of Moon Knight.

Moon Knight wasn't there.

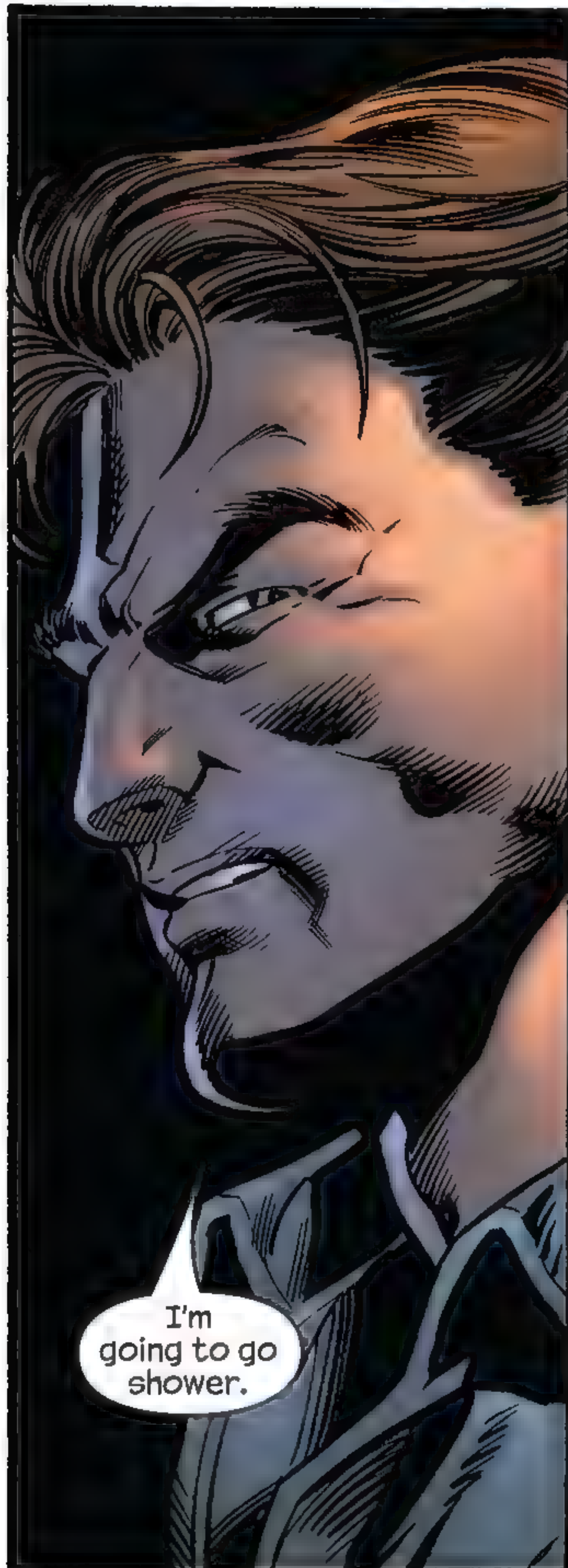
I don't understand.



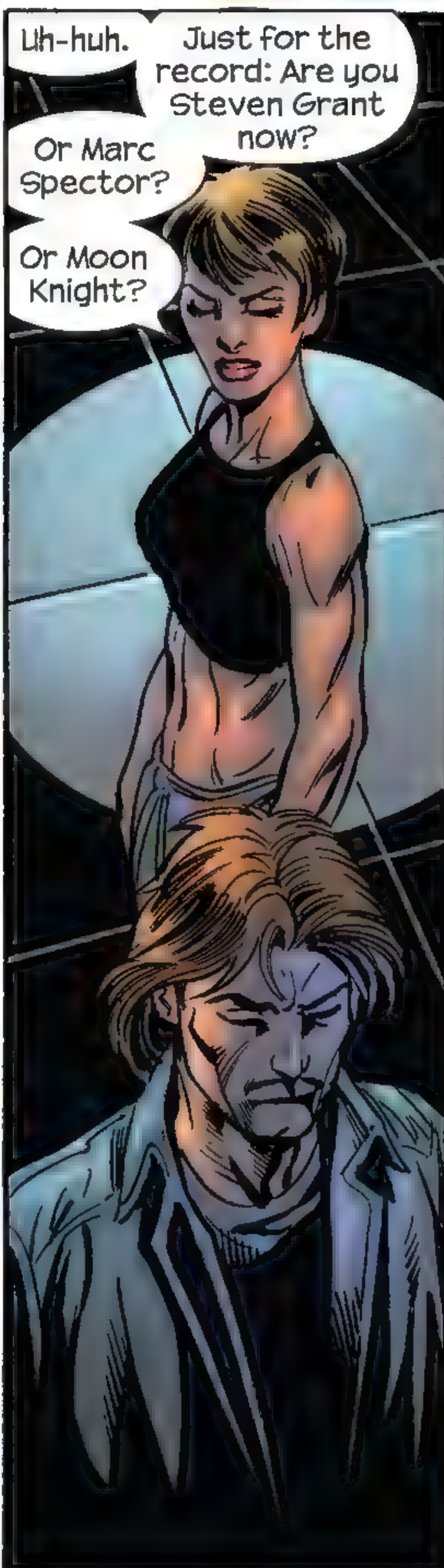
A fight broke out. I just observed.

At least the costume's still in one piece.

Did you see Spider-Man again?



I'm going to go shower.

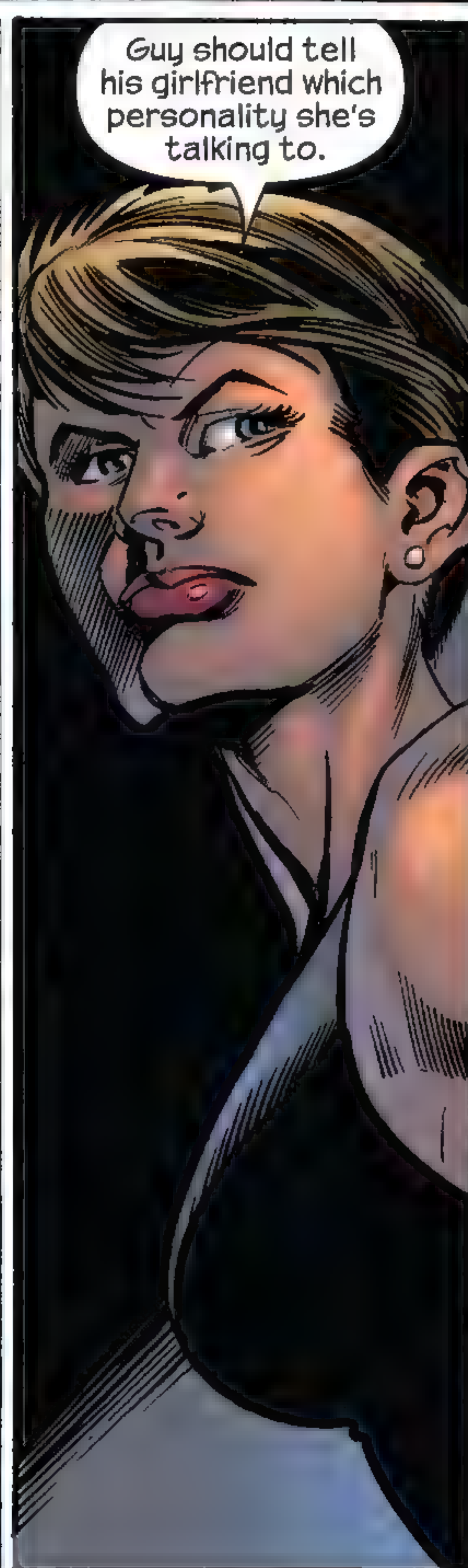


Uh-huh.

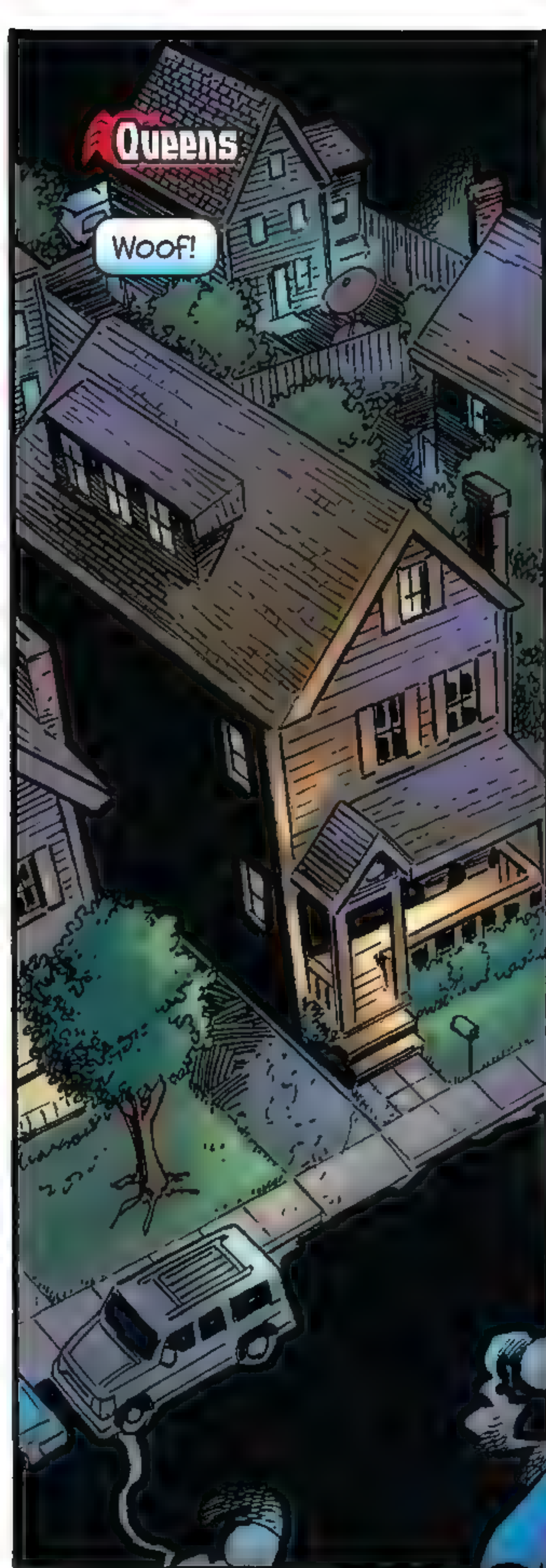
Just for the record: Are you Steven Grant now?

Or Marc Spector?

Or Moon Knight?



Guy should tell his girlfriend which personality she's talking to.



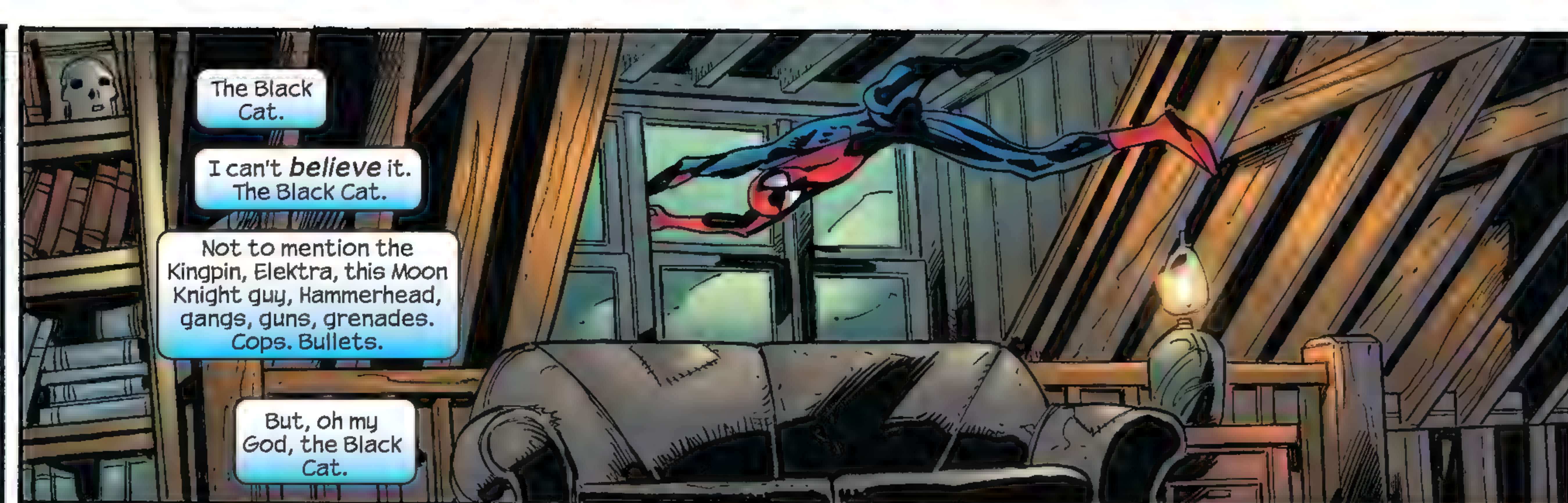
Queens

Woof!

I mean it.

Woof!

Now *that* was a day!

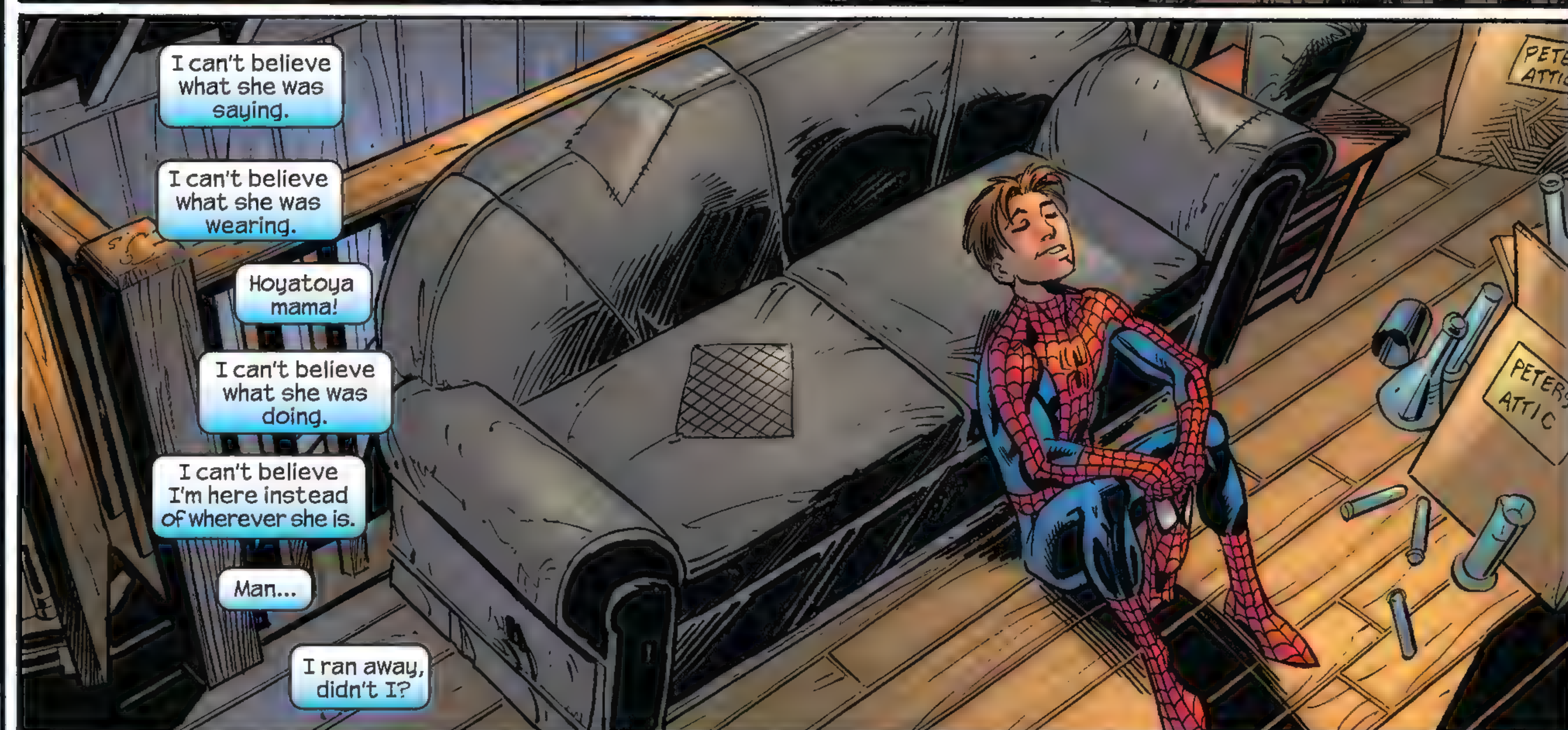


The Black Cat.

I can't *believe* it. The Black Cat.

Not to mention the Kingpin, Elektra, this Moon Knight guy, Hammerhead, gangs, guns, grenades. Cops. Bullets.

But, oh my God, the Black Cat.



I can't believe what she was saying.

I can't believe what she was wearing.

Hoyatoya mama!

I can't believe what she was doing.

I can't believe I'm here instead of wherever she is.

Man...

I ran away, didn't I?



I ran away like a little baby.

She scared the crap out of me. She's too much.

I mean, I guess I could have stuck around.

I *am* single. MJ and I aren't dating. Maybe I *should* date someone like *that*.

The Black Cat can actually handle my Spider-Man life like MJ couldn't.

She can take care of herself. Why *not*?

So she's older and crazy.

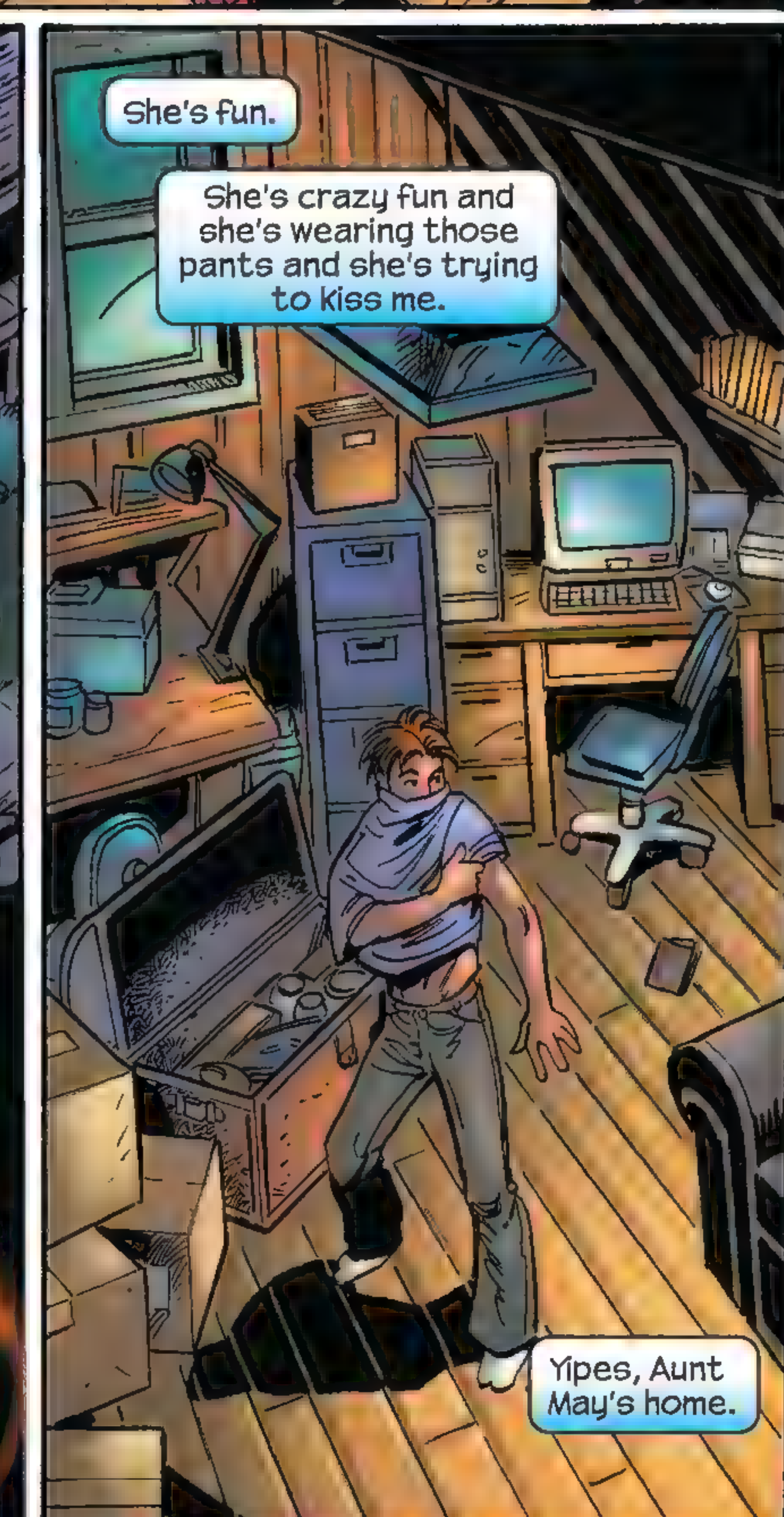


Who cares? Who am I?

I'm *not* crazy?

I'm skipping school so I can get shot at three times in my spider-tights.

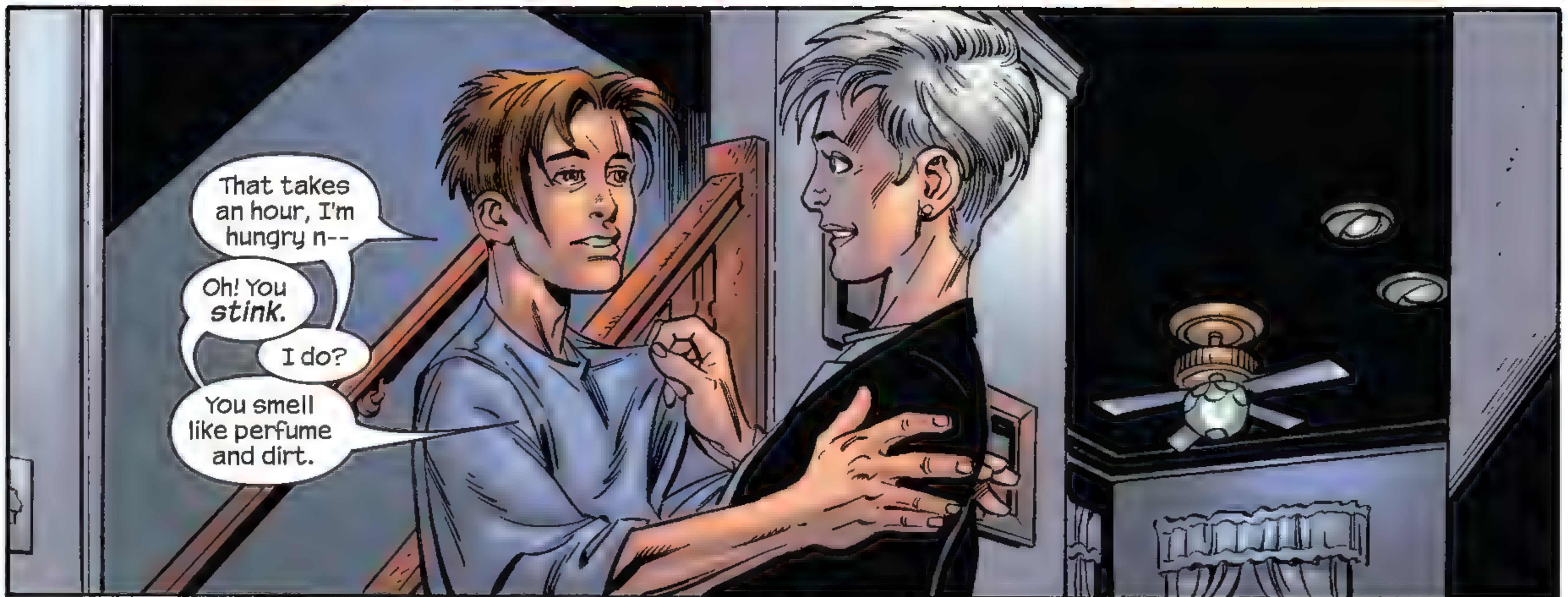
And I'm judging *her*.

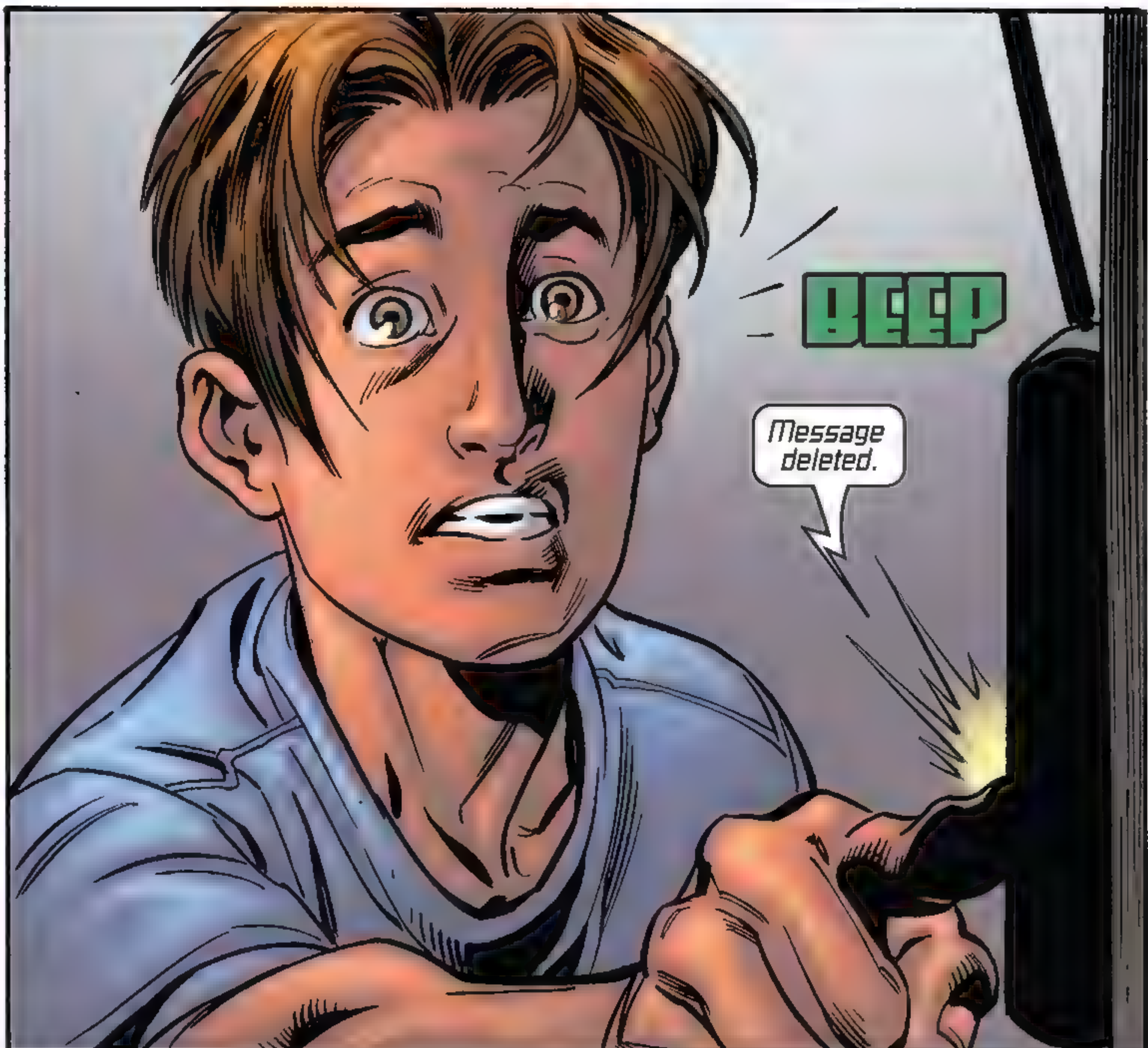


She's fun.

She's crazy fun and she's wearing those pants and she's trying to kiss me.

Yipes, Aunt May's home.

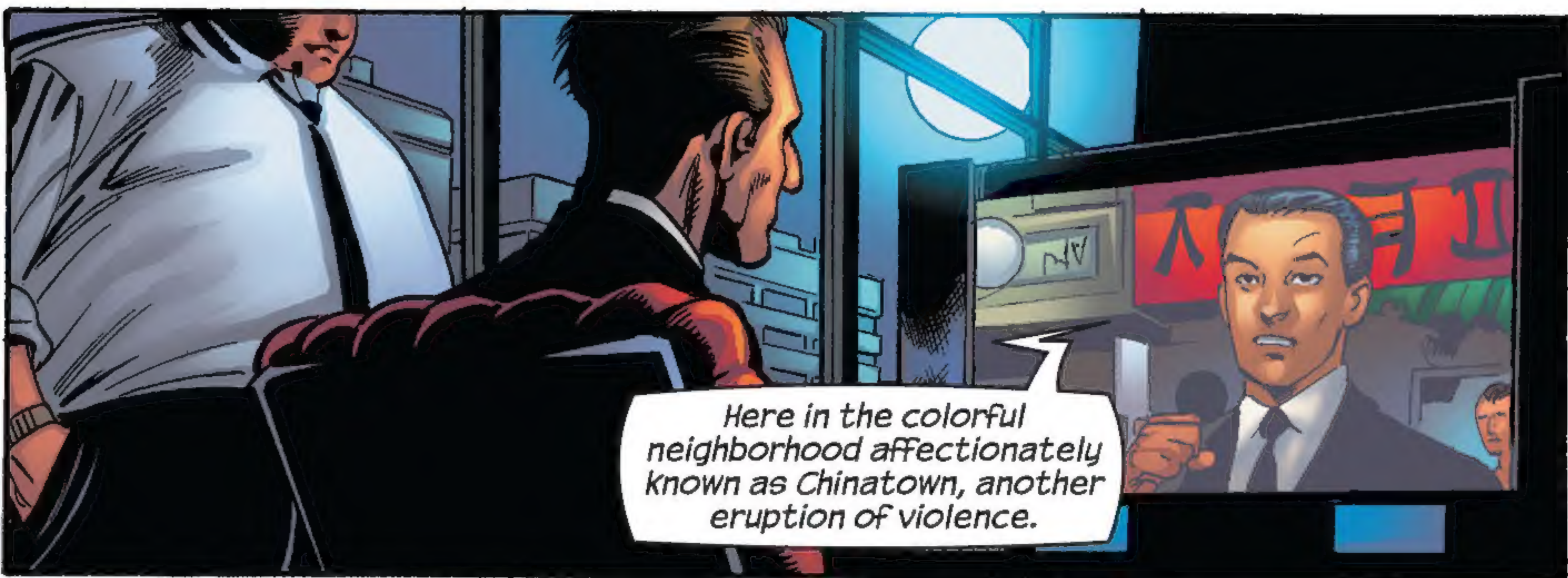






Fisk Towers

Another neighborhood terrorized by gang violence!!



Here in the colorful neighborhood affectionately known as Chinatown, another eruption of violence.



You don't understand, things were fine here.

The gangs were all under control. Everything was fine, because they were all scared of the Kingpin.

Allegedly.

No. Not allegedly. I'm telling you.

But now there's nothing to keep them in line.

TARA SOMA, STORY OWNER



The cops don't come here. All we got to rely on is a guy in a spider costume, and even with that...

And who gets hurt? Us! Me!

With the Kingpin's consigliere, Walter Dini, under indictment, it's clear that the Kingpin's alleged influence, whatever that may be, has severely affected everything, all the way down to this little corner of the--

I'm sorry.

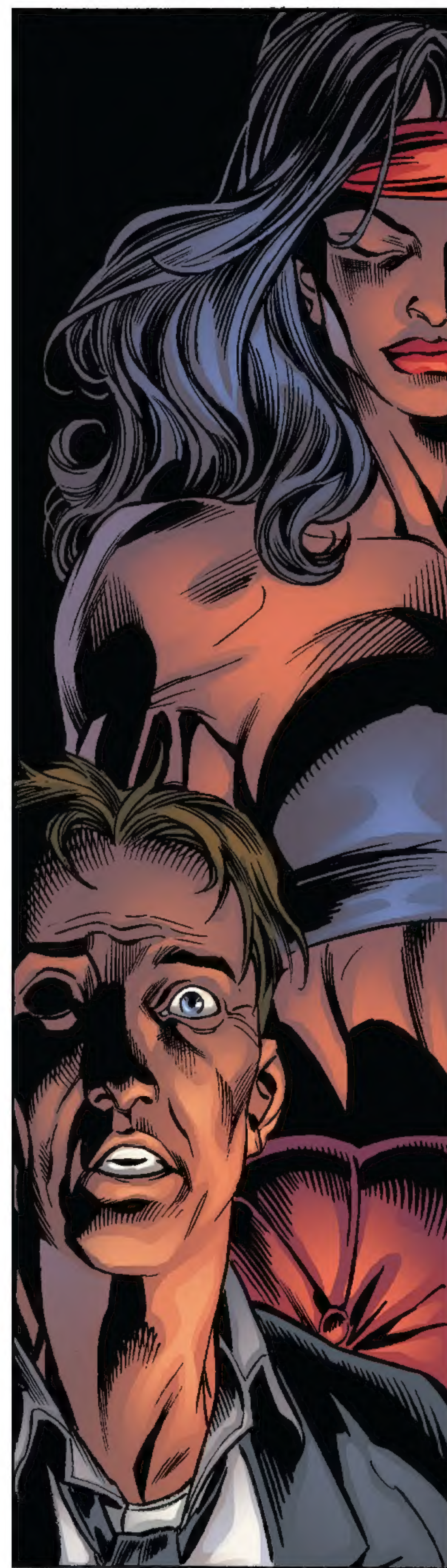
All we've been through, Wilson, I never wanted to be an embarrassment to you...



I know, Walter.

If there was anything I could do to make this go away. I would.

I'm glad to hear you say that.



Elektra,
Make it disappear.
The chair as well.

Yes, sir.



When you're done,
report back to
me.

The
gloves are
off.

Hammerhead,
Moon Knight,
Spider-Man...

It's time
to clean this
up.

Hope you're
ready for the
task.



I am.

To be
continued...

ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN

Dear Lifesavers,

Everybody at *Ultimate Spider-Man* can now consider themselves actual super heroes. A while back I got my girlfriend, NJ (ironic no?), into *Ultimate Spidey*. She fell in love with it. Unfortunately, we had a fight a few weeks ago, and we stopped talking for a while.

Then something quite unexpected and amazing happened—I went over to her house to return a book, and she handed me a letter. She told me not to open it until I got home, so of course as soon as I stepped into my house I opened it up. As I started reading it, I recognized it from somewhere. Sure enough, it was the letter MJ wrote to Peter in issue #41, with some slight modifications.

I then realized how closely our relationship rivaled Peter and MJ's (except for the whole wearing-spandex thing). As soon as I was done reading, I ran over to her house. I couldn't jump up to her second floor bedroom, so I knocked on the door—she answered, and we kissed.

We've been back together and closer than ever since then, so I'd just like to thank all of you at *Ultimate Spider-Man* for saving my relationship. Like I said, you're all my own personal super heroes.

Jim Hearne
New York

PS: Did you get the "cellar door" reference from the movie *Donnie Darko*, by any chance?

Wow! What an amazing story! You're a lucky guy, Jim (and it sounds like your girlfriend's pretty lucky too!). We're glad we could help! But please, Jim, if you two ever fight again, don't try to reenact a Spider-Man/Hobgoblin battle, okay? And as for "cellar door"...well, why are you wearing that stupid man suit? How's that for a *Donnie Darko* reference?

Greetings and Salutations,

I just finished *USM* #79, and was blown away. Awesomely awesome!! I know some readers will probably hate me for my comments, but I wanted to share them anyway:

1. After reading Peter say "Peter Parker No More," I had to do a double-take. Is this leading back to Ben Riley? I was always a fan of the clone series in *Amazing* and thought Ben Reilly would never return.

2. I'm really impressed how Hammerhead came into the Ultimate Universe with such a bang. Only five pages in and he kills Silvermane? I have to applaud you guys on that one. And finally...

3. Ever since the Carnage saga, I wondered, "WHEN IS VENOM COMING BACK!?!?" I know he'll be in the *Ultimate Spider-Man* videogame, but come on! You guys have got to find a way to bring him back!

Thanks for listening to my mindless ranting!

Jeff Forehand
Seymour, WI

Hey Jeff! The return of Ben Reilly...? Hmm... you never know. As far as Venom, who knows what the future holds, but if you *do* have a videogame system you really should check out the *Ultimate Spider-Man* videogame. The story is in Ultimate Universe continuity, and our very own Brian Michael Bendis wrote it and Mark Bagley provided design work! We were lucky enough to see a preview of it at the San-Diego ComiCon, and trust me, it looks pretty sweet!

Hi guys!

I've never written before, but after reading *USM* #79 I just had to share my thoughts with you.

First of all I'd like to say how much I enjoy the Ultimate Spider-Man series. I've been a Spidey fan since I can remember and it's great to see the whole story retold again with excellent writing and art work. I think the villains are a lot more menacing in the Ultimate universe and I can't wait to see foes like Doc Ock and Green Goblin resurface again.

Having said that, however, I must admit that I was a little disappointed to see Harry Osborn become the Hobgoblin instead of the second Green Goblin. But what was even more disturbing than Harry becoming the Hobgoblin was the caption in issue #72 which told us that Peter was bitten by the spider a mere nine months ago. Nine months? And we're already at issue #72? Surely more than nine months would have passed in 72 issues?

Is Peter Parker going to remain a fifteen-year-old in high school for the entire *Ultimate Spider-Man* series? Or can we expect him to graduate soon and move on to college? If I remember correctly, there was a part in the "Venom" arc where Peter said that he can't wait to go to college. Maybe he's trying to tell you guys something, too!

Thanks for the great series and keep up the good work!

Your friendly neighborhood South-African,
Carl Stemmet

Thanks for writing in, Carl (and all the way from South Africa, too)! I'm sure at some point Peter will graduate from high school, but remember that in normal Marvel Universe continuity Peter graduated from high school after, oh, thirty-eight issues or so, right? I think the whole *USM* creative team is getting a kick out of exploring Peter's high school years, and until we run out of stories we can tell with Peter in high school I think we'll continue to move things forward slowly. Does anyone else have an opinion on this topic?

Hi Ultimate Editors,

I just picked up the new *Astonishing X-Men*, and on the letters page someone said Bendis and Bagley might leave *Ultimate Spider-Man*. Please say it isn't so! The reason *USM* is my favorite is because of Bendis' stories, and Bagley's art. I couldn't take it if another great artist left, like when Andy Kubert left *Ultimate X-Men*. I am a huge fan of artists Mark Bagley and David Finch. I am also a huge fan of writers Peter David, Brian Michael Bendis, and Chris Claremont. Bendis is one of my favorite writers because his stories and cliffhanger endings make you *really* want to get the next issue!

Keep up the good work!
Brent Zamecki

Don't worry, Brent! There are *NO* plans for Bendis or Bagley to jump ship any time soon. In fact, they've got a ton more stories they want to tell, and they're not slowing down at all!

Hi Guys,

I've been reading from the first issue and I've got to say it's great. I've read all the Ultimate comics except *Ultimate Marvel Team-Up*. I loved the Mark Raxton link to Molten Man in issue #78 and can't wait to see more of him. I do have a few questions though.

1) Wasn't Hammerhead killed by Gambit in *Ultimate X-Men* #14?

2) Will there (please) be an *Ultimate Daredevil* series, not just another mini-series?

3) Will you be reprinting or do you know where I can find copies of *Ultimate Marvel Team-Up*? I can't find them anywhere here in Britain.

Cheers,
John

Thanks for writing in, John!

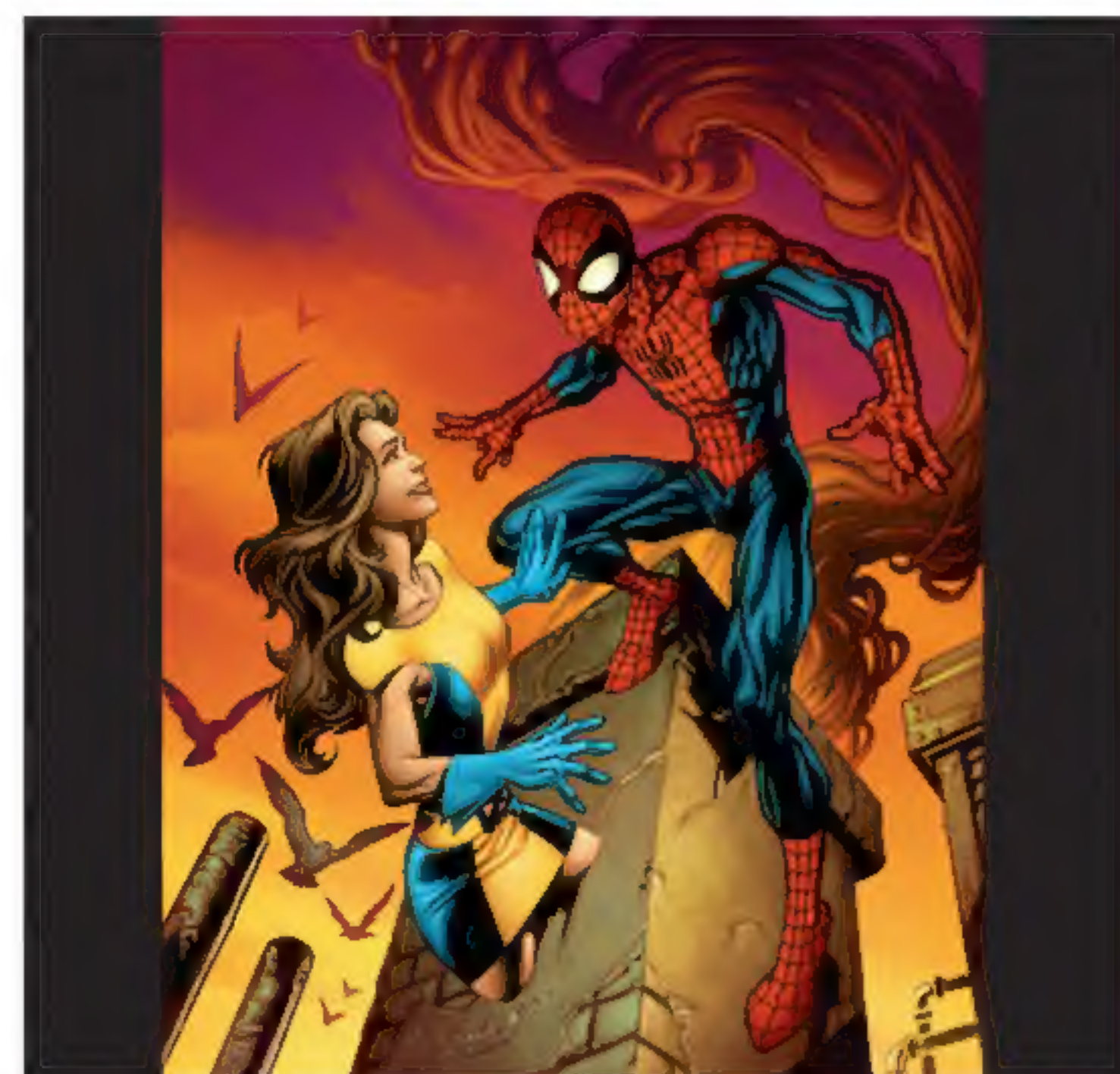
1) It's true that Gambit tried to fry Hammerhead's brains waaay back in *Ultimate X-Men* #14, but Hammerhead took a bullet to the temple a few issues ago and just shrugged it off. Do you think he'd be bothered much by an exploding tooth?

2) As far as *Ultimate Daredevil*...no plans at the moment, but if enough readers demand it...

3) *Ultimate Marvel Team-Up* has been collected into three trade paperbacks (or one big fat hardcover if you've got a few extra dollars)... check with your local retailer and hopefully he can get a hold of them.



Next: The players are on the board—how will Hammerhead's dangerous game of chess play out? And whose side will all the players fall onto? Spidey shouldn't trust anyone in "Warriors" part 5—on sale in three weeks!



And don't miss *Ultimate Spider-Man Annual* #1, on sale now—featuring art by Mark Brooks and an incredible story by our own Mr. Bendis! Peter gets a new girlfriend in this, folks, so don't be the last one on your block to get a copy!

STEVEN CHRISTY
SPECIAL THANKS

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